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29 January 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Plans
Deputy Director for Science
and Technology
Director, National Estimates
Director, Current Intelligence
Director, Strategic Research
Director, Economic Research

SUBJECT : Agency Support to the National
Security Council System

1. This directive outlines the reorganization of the National Security Council System and establishes institutions and procedures for providing that system with Agency support.

2. The National Security Council (NSC)

The membership and functions of the National Security Council continue unchanged as set forth in the National Security Act of 1947, as amended. The NSC will ordinarily meet once a week, on Wednesday mornings.

The Director attends the NSC meetings and briefs these meetings on significant world developments and on agenda items.

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Agency action responsibility

Preparation and coordination of the Director's NSC briefing material is primarily the responsibility of the Director of Current Intelligence under the direction of the Deputy Director for Intelligence.

In order to provide a central Agency file and coordinate general staff support on NSC matters, the Deputy Director for Intelligence will continue to provide the necessary facilities. Each Deputy Director will designate a staff officer to serve as a focal point for handling NSC matters within his Directorate and to manage coordination with the representative of the Deputy Director for Intelligence.

3. The National Security Council Under Secretaries Committee

The NSC Under Secretaries Committee will review various interagency activities overseas and those substantive problems which do not require consideration by the NSC. This committee is chaired by the Under Secretary of State. Other members are the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, the Director of Central Intelligence, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Agency action responsibility

The Director will assign action responsibility in each instance depending on the subject matter on the agenda.

The 303 Committee will continue to exist as a separate entity, and existing Agency staff support arrangements will remain as before.

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The NSC Review Group has been established to review papers prepared by the NSC Interdepartmental Groups, NSC Ad Hoc Groups, or the Departments prior to their consideration by the NSC. In general, its functions will be similar to those carried out by the former NSC Planning Board. The NSC Review Group may also assign actions to the NSC Interdepartmental Groups or Ad Hoc Groups.

The NSC Review Group is chaired by the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and includes representatives of the Secretaries of State and Defense, of the Director of Central Intelligence, and of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Deputy Director for Intelligence is the Director's representative on the NSC Review Group.

Agency action responsibility

The Deputy Director for Intelligence will draw on all Agency resources in carrying out his responsibilities. In so doing, he will give due regard to the Agency mechanism which supports the Interdepartmental Groups; namely, the Area Division Chiefs of the Clandestine Services in collaboration with the corresponding Regional Officers of the Directorate of Intelligence. The Deputy Director for Intelligence will consult with the Deputy Director for Science and Technology and request his support when required by the subjects on the agenda of the Review Group. He will also call upon the Director, National Estimates for support with agreed national intelligence as appropriate.

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5. National Security Council Interdepartmental Groups and Ad Hoc Groups

The existing Interdepartmental Regional Groups (IRGs) and the Political-Military Interdepartmental Group have been merged into the NSC structure. These groups will address themselves to issues which can be settled at the Assistant Secretary level and will prepare policy and contingency papers for review by the NSC.

Agency action responsibility

The Area Division Chiefs of the Clandestine Services will be the Agency representatives on the Interdepartmental Regional Groups, and the Director of Strategic Research of the Directorate of Intelligence will be the principal Agency representative on the Political-Military Group.

To insure that papers prepared by Interdepartmental Groups which analyze international developments do fully represent the views of the Agency, a Regional Officer will be designated by the Deputy Director for Intelligence to attend meetings of the Interdepartmental Groups together with the Area Division Chief or his Deputy. These Regional Officers will be responsible for presenting intelligence analysis related to issues discussed at such meetings and for providing the Area Division Chiefs with any analytical support they may require. The Area Division Chiefs, in turn, are responsible for maintaining close cooperation with the Regional Officers, calling on them for substantive support, and keeping them fully informed of the status of projects before the IRG.

Substantive papers submitted or positions taken within the Interdepartmental Groups will be fully coordinated within the Agency and will be compatible with agreed national intelligence as fully as possible.

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6. It must be stressed that matters pertaining to the business of the National Security Council and its subsidiary groups must be handled with significantly greater secrecy than in earlier years and in strict accordance with the need-to-know principle. This policy of secrecy particularly applies to subjects on the agenda of meetings and the substance of discussions in such meetings. Access to NSC documents and information will be limited to individuals approved by the Director.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

[REDACTED]

L. K. WHITE
Executive Director-Comptroller

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